

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 16716 290051Z

72

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8998

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UNCLAS TOKYO 16716

E.O. 11652: N/A

REF: TOKYO 14359; STATE 249293

SUMMARY: EMBASSY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ADVERSE EFFECTS OF
NEGATIVE DECISION RE SEPARATE ENTRANCE TO COMMERCIAL LIBRARY,
USIS LIBRARY AND USIS PROGRAMS. REQUEST RECONSIDERATION.
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY NEGATIVE DECISION RE
SEPARATE USIS ENTRANCE NEW CHANCERY BUILDING. SINCE COMMERCIAL
LIBRARY WILL SHARE SPACE SAME GENERAL AREA, BELIEVE ATTENDANCE
TO IT WILL BE AS ADVERSELY EFFECTED AS ATTENDANCE TO INFOMAT
AND USIS PROGRAMS IN MULTIMEDIA ROOM.

2. WHILE IT TRUE THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH USIS IN TOKYO ENVISAGED
NO FURTHER CHANGES IN SPACE, THIS WAS UNDERSTOOD BY USIS HERE
TO MEAN ONLY THAT USIS OPERATION COULD BE INCORPOATED WITHIN
EXISTING SPACE. IT WAS NOT INTERPRETED TO PRECLUDE REASONABLE
AND LOGICAL ADJUSTMENTS THAT WOULD MAXIMIZE RATHER THAN
MINIMIZE EFFECTIVENESS OF USIS PROGRAMS AND COMMERCIAL
LIBRARY.

3. BELIEVE IT SELF-EVIDENT THAT WITHOUT SEPARATE ENTRANCE
SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF USIS AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARY AUDIENCES
WILL FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE AT BEST, INHIBITED AT WORST,
USING FACILITIES OR ATTENDING PROGRAMS. COMMUNICATIONS
PROBLEM IN JAPAN DIFFICULT ENOUGH WITHOUT ADDITIONAL AND
UNNECESSARY PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS.

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4. DESIGN OF SEPARATE ENTRANCE APPEARS TO US AS RELATIVELY MINOR ADJUSTMENT. ADDITIONALLY, IT WAS EMBASSY BELIEF THAT SIMILAR PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN IN NEW EMBASSIES ELSEWHERE AND THAT, WHERE NECESSARY, DESIGN ALLOWED FOR FREEST POSSIBLE PUBLIC ACCESS TO WHAT ARE ESSENTIALLY PUBLIC USG FACILITIES.

5. RECOGNIZE REVISION ASKED FOR CAUSES SOME DIFFICULTIES BUT NEW CHANCERY WILL BE HERE FOR VERY LONG TIME AND BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO ASSURE ITS GREATEST POSSIBLE UTILIZATION TO ALL EMBASSY ELEMENTS CONCERNED.

6. THEREFORE, EMBASSY REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION ON URGENT BASIS, APOLOGIZING FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE, BUT WITH STRONG BELIEF THAT COMMERCIAL LIBRARY AND USIS OPERATIONS WILL OTHERWISE BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.
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